

quarters of a million dollars in Los Angeles alone each year from dog owners, and direct the spending of it."

James Lindsay, for the Tailwaggers Foundation; Charles Friedrichs, of the State Humane Association; Louis Burke, of the League of California Cities, and William H. Neal, assistant Los Angeles city attorney, and Mrs. Billie Burke Ziegfeld, of the Tailwaggers Foundation, were among the others who spoke against the bill.—*San Francisco Examiner*, March 19.

* * *

Porter Clinic Stone-Laying

Cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the Langley Porter Clinic on the campus of the University of California Medical Center, Third and Parnassus avenues, will be held at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, with scores of state, city, and county officials taking part, as well as medical leaders of the bay area.

The clinic will cost about \$500,000, and will be a neuropsychiatric unit of the Department of Institutions and will be under direction of the medical school.

Honor Doctor Porter

It is named in honor of Dr. Langley Porter, dean emeritus of the University of California Medical School.

Dr. Aaron J. Rosanoff, Director of the State Department of Institutions, will be master of ceremonies, with Governor Olson laying the cornerstone.

Doctor Porter will speak, as will Robert Gordon Sproul, University President.

Wilbur Invited

Music by the band of the University of California will open and close the program, to which the invited guests include Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University, and Dr. Walter L. Treadway, Medical Director of the United States Public Health Service.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, April 4.

LETTERS†

Concerning Gratuitous Medical Service Examinations Under the Selective Service Act.

HAROLD A. FLETCHER, M. D.

RUSSELL FLETCHER, M. D.

SAN FRANCISCO

March 5, 1941.

To the Editor:—I am enclosing a short series of letters on the medical examinations for the Draft Boards, which are more or less self-explanatory. The first is a postscript of a letter from Harry Wiley to my brother Russell, which I answered for Russell, and my reply is enclosed; also, Doctor Wiley's reply as well as his reply to my letter suggesting that it might be of interest to publish these letters or parts of them in the *JOURNAL*, possibly under a column devoted to a discussion of this subject, and inviting further comments from other doctors throughout the state.

I realize that the Council has taken this subject up, but I feel that the sooner the County Medical Societies begin to think about positive action to correct the bad conditions to get some concerted action at the next annual session, the better it will be. As it stands now, this job which has been dumped into the lap of the medical profession, stands as an outright super- and exorbitant tax on the medical profession above the taxation which is placed on the rest of the taxpayers, both state and national. I feel very definitely that this is going to be a long program, and the medical profession should, as a whole, go to the Governor and to the State and demand that this special taxation on the medical profession be removed, and that doctors be reimbursed for their services.

. . . I think that the sooner thorough general discussion of this subject is brought about, the better. The medical men are becoming very restless under the present régime

†CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

of arduous examinations which they are asked to donate gratis.

With my kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD A. FLETCHER, M. D.

' ' '

Huntington Park, February 8, 1941.

Harold A. Fletcher, M. D.

Medico-Dental Building

490 Post Street

San Francisco, California

Dear Harold:

Your letter of the 29th received. Thanks a lot. It is perfectly agreeable with me to have our letters sent to *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, and I feel as you do that if they were published in the *JOURNAL* they might provoke some healthy discussion. There are a lot of things that the delegates should be thinking about between now and the annual session, and this is one of them.

With very kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

' ' '

January 21, 1941.

Harry Wiley, M. D.

2701 Florence Avenue

Huntington Park, California

Dear Doctor Wiley:

Russell turned over the postscript of your letter to me regarding the work that has been thrown upon the medical profession with regard to the Selective Draft Board.

I think your questions are absolutely right and justified, and are very pertinent to the situation that we have in hand. I think these questions could very rightly be taken up in every one of the various County Medical Societies, and thoroughly discussed; then their delegates to the State Association could come to some definite conclusion as to what the medical profession's continued attitude toward this should be. If this is done, at least we would all know more about it, and we could come to some more definite conclusions.

The work of the Defense Program, as we all know, is so great that it is hard to determine how it can best be accomplished. The position of the medical men on the local Draft Boards goes back to the Medical Defense Committee's work of the American Medical Association. The American Medical Association, as well as our state societies, of course, must do their part and assume their responsibilities in the defense program as far as medicine is concerned. This committee has been working for years, and particularly during the past two years it has been working intensively on the question. Doctor Dukes of Oakland, who is past president of the California Medical Association, is chairman of the Western Division of the California Medical Association Committee, and Dr. Philip K. Gilman and others of the State Society have done their best to organize this work and spread it out over the medical profession as fairly as possible. When it came down to the Selective Draft, the United States Government left this problem in the hands of each State to handle as its own problem. Whether some States were able to raise money to pay a minimum charge for doctors' services in examining the draftees or not, I do not know. However, in California I know that the powers that be in Sacramento do not feel that the State has any money for this work. Therefore, the doctors and the lay workers on the Draft Boards are unpaid, with the exception of certain full-time technical clerks. The Army, of course, could not possibly supply the medical men for this work, as they do not have enough medical men in the Army at present to carry on their own work. A draftee is not in the Army,

as yet, and it is only when he comes up to the Induction Board that he becomes a part of the Army.

Here in San Francisco, after having the problem completely balled up by the Governor and the Adjutant-General's office, who are not following the plans of the American Medical Association Committee on Medical Defense, the County Medical Society here took things in hand and got it fairly well straightened out so that the work is spread out over a great many of doctors without too much concentration on certain ones. However, the problem is still present, and as time goes on it should be worked out with more fairness to the medical profession.

With my kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD A. FLETCHER, M. D.

✓ ✓ ✓

(COPY)

Enclosure

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA

Postscript of a letter addressed to Russell Fletcher, M. D., and dated January 16, 1941.

P. S.—Note in this month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE where Harold, as chairman of a special committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society, called a meeting with Colonel Bert S. Thomas and staff of the California Adjutant-General's medical department, etc. One question I would like to put to Harold, to the county medical societies, to the Governor, the Government, and everybody concerned:

Why are they asking the medical profession to examine these draftees gratis? It is taking hours and hours of their time and I know many down here are doing it at a great sacrifice. Why wouldn't it be a simple solution to detail a man already in the service on salary to go from Board to Board and do this examining?

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

✓ ✓ ✓

Huntington Park, California,
January 27, 1941.

Harold A. Fletcher, M. D.
Medico-Dental Building
490 Post Street
San Francisco, California
My dear Harold:

Many thanks for your letter of the 21st. I feel that we are all in accord on this matter, but sort of working at cross-purposes. I like your suggestion that it should be taken up with the various county medical societies, and I wish I were big enough and influential enough to take it up not only with our own county medical societies, but with all the State Associations and the American Medical Association. To my way of thinking, it is one of the great injustices, regardless of all others, that we have had to suffer and that has ever been placed upon the medical profession.

I agree with you that the Defense Program is large and great, but I do not agree with you that it is hard to determine how it can best be accomplished. It will easily be accomplished if the entire American public, including capitalists, bankers, manufacturers, workers (including representatives of all unions), lawyers, dentists, medical profession, and *everybody* who constitutes America, give their utmost to putting across the Defense Program. However, in the present position, the medical men are expected to give something for nothing, which nobody else will. If everybody else connected with the Defense Program—which, after all, I think would be the ideal way—gave their time and service, then it would be just and right to expect the medical profession to do likewise. If the medical men are expected to do this, then why shouldn't the lawyers,

the dentists, the laborers, especially the high-up officials of the unions, give their time for nothing? Perhaps I am a trifle radical, but I still think my argument is just.

You bring up the point that the Army could not possibly supply medical men for this work, and I must disagree with you heartily. They could easily order enough reserve officers to do all this examining. You state that a draftee is not in the Army, and yet at behest of the Government he is ordered up to become a part of the Army. During times when an emergency does not exist, the Army maintains recruiting offices, consisting usually of a medical officer and a sergeant of the Medical Corps, and they stay at the recruiting office for months at a time on full pay with only an occasional applicant whom they examine. Why shouldn't they now be given full time and examine twelve or fifteen draftees a day? When I went into the service in No. 1 War, I did this very recruiting duty for the first three weeks, and, from my experience of that time, I know that it could easily be accomplished by medical army officers who are being paid for their services.

Hoping that we will be able to work this thing out, I am with very kindest regards,

Yours,

HARRY WILEY, M. D.

Concerning Hardships on Medical Reserve Officers: A Letter with Queries.

April 1, 1941.

To the Editor:—A condition which some of us feel warrants the attention of the California Medical Association and the American Medical Association has arisen as a result of the present emergency and the methods adopted by the Army and the Navy Departments.

From conversations with other Reserve officers and from outside reports, I think my own experience is perhaps typical of the situation. Many of us have belonged to the Reserve for several years, and when the question of remaining as such arose we were assured that we would not, and in fact could not, be called to active duty without consent except in time of war. As late as November, 1940, we were officially advised not to give up present civilian occupations, and emphasizing the fact that every consideration would be given in case of call so as to work no unnecessary hardship in adjusting affairs, also recommending that those wishing deferment submit letter stating their reasons. Yet less than ten days after receiving this memorandum, orders were issued to some of us, giving from four to fifteen days in which to report for active duty, in most cases, some distance from our homes.

The result has been that in most cases the doctors concerned were forced to simply close their offices and leave both patients and personal affairs in confusion. The fact that many of us were heavily obligated in the way of real estate, etc., made the situation increasingly bad. This method of procedure has in no way helped the morale of those concerned, many of whom feel it unnecessarily severe under present conditions of so-called peace.

The result of this inability to make adjustments will undoubtedly be that most of us will not only lose our hard-won practices, but possibly our investments in equipment and property. Under recent laws, those called for a year with the National Guard and Selective Service are assured of their jobs upon return to civil life, but these do not protect professional and business men required to leave their business.

As far as I can ascertain, medical officers have no assurance that, when the emergency is over, they will not be simply dropped at the discretion of the Army and the Navy officials as coldly as they were inducted, perhaps with as little warning, and probably in a period of depression. That this will work great hardships upon thousands of them now sacrificing their practices is no question.